

UNIDAD SIETE

- El Presente continuo
- Las perífrasis verbales

El presente continuo [Estar + Gerundio]

In English, Present continuous or progressive tense can be used to describe what is happening right now or what will happen in the future. But in Spanish, the present progressive is only used to describe an action that is in the process of taking place right now only.

The **GERUND** or present participle is the form of the verb that ends in **-ANDO** (for **AR** verbs) and **-IENDO** (for **ER** and **IR** verbs). This parallel to the **-ING** ending in English like walking, swimming etc.

Examples:

Yo estoy hablando → I am speaking.

Juan está escribiendo una carta → John is drafting a letter.

María y Juan están comiendo → Mary & John are eating.

The sentences above show that the English present continuous tense has an equivalent structure in Spanish.

In fact, the present conjugation of **ESTAR** is used together with the **GERUND** form of the verb, whose action is being performed by the subject. Both structures describe a present action that is in progress at the time of the speech as well as an action that is repeated over a period that is considered present.

To form the gerund of Spanish verbs, the infinitive ending (–AR/–ER/–IR) drops and the correct gerund termination is added based on the verb group they belong to.

			GERUND		
	PRONOUN	ESTAR	AR	ER	IR
Singular	Yo	estoy	habl ando	com iendo	escrib iendo
	Tú	estás	trabaj ando	beb iendo	viv iendo
	Él, Ella, Usted	está	estudi ando	haci endo	puli endo
Plural	Nosotros/as	estamos	escuch ando	moli endo	sali endo
	Vosotros/as	estáis	camin ando	aprend iendo	descri endo
	Ellos/as, Ustedes	están	bail ando	perdi endo	bati endo

Few examples:

(Yo) **estoy organizando** la fiesta – I **am organizing** the party

Luis **está bebiendo** agua – Louise **is drinking** water

Daniel y tú **estáis escribiendo** un correo. [Daniel y tú = vosotros -> *estáis*]

Daniel and you **are writing** a mail (letter).

(Nosotros) **estamos repasando** para el examen.

We **are revising** for the exam.

¿Qué **estás (tú) comiendo**? – What **are** you **eating**?

Ellas **están saliendo** del cine ahora mismo.

They **are going out** of the cinema right now.

Not surprisingly, a considerable number of verbs feature an irregular gerund form. The good news is that, the irregularity occurs within the verbal stem rather than the gerund termination and most of them can be classified into categories.

The most common irregular changes are:

e → i er → y ir → y o → u

VERB	CHANGE	GERUND	ENGLISH
Decir	e → i	Diciendo	Talking
Servir		Sirviendo	Serving
Pedir		Pidiendo	Asking
Seguir		Siguiendo	Following

Leer	er → y	Leyendo	Reading
Creer		Creyendo	Believing
Traer		Trayendo	Bringing

Huir	ir → y	Huyendo	Escaping
Influir		Influyendo	Influencing
Oír		Oyendo	Hearing

Dormir	o → u	Durmiendo	Sleeping
Morir		Muriendo	Dying

Las perífrasis verbales

*Periphrasis - the use of indirect and circumlocutory speech or writing.

*Circumlocutory - using many words where fewer would do, especially in a deliberate attempt to be vague or evasive.

Introduction:

Verb periphrasis are nothing but combination of intention of the speaker or action of the speaker. They are constructions of sentences that consist of two or more verbs that function as one.

In many cases, the verbs that compose it are joined by a preposition that governs the first verb. Generally, it is an auxiliary verb in personal form (that is, conjugated) followed by a main verb in non-personal form (in infinitive, participle or gerund).

Verbal periphrasis expresses the intention, the beginning, the duration, the course or the end of an action.

Sentence formation:

Verb periphrasis are composed of an auxiliary verb in a personal form that indicates the way in which the action is carried out by the speaker, sometimes also a nexus that can be a preposition or a conjunction, and a main verb in a non-personal form (infinitive, past participle or gerund).

Sentence formula:

Auxiliary verb + Preposition + <Infinitive> (or) Auxiliary verb + <Infinitive>
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The infinitive periphrases are composed of an auxiliary verb (conjugated form) followed by a Main verb (Infinitive). Most of them require a NEXUS (a preposition or a conjunction) between the verb in personal form and the infinitive.

Perífrasis modales: This express the attitude of the speaker (obligation, need, possibility) through the auxiliary verb before the action that is expressed in the infinitive form.

1) Imminent posteriority: Usually used about almost certain to happen very soon.

Ir + a + <infinitivo> (or) Irse + a + <infinitivo>

Yo **voy a estudiar** esta tarde – I am **going to study** this evening.

¿Tú **vas a hacer** ahora para mí? – **Will** you **do** it for me now?

Se **va a llover** de un momento a otro – It's **going to rain** any moment.

¡Justo a minuto! (Yo) **me voy a venir** ahí – Just a minute! I **will come** there.

2) Possibility | Permission:

Poder + <infinitivo> (or) poderse + <infinitivo>

¡Discúlpeme! ¿Yo **puedo entrar**? – Excuse me! **can** I **enter**?

Sí, tú **puedes entrar** – You **can enter**.

Se **puede llover** esta noche – It **can rain** tonight.

Se **puede ser** hecho mejor – It **can be** done better.

3) Obligation | Necessity | Deduction: Something that you work out from facts that you already know

Tener + que + <infinitivo>

Nosotros **temenos que estudiar** bien para el examen – we **have to study** well for the exam.

Yo **tengo que salir** inmediatamente – I **have to leave** immediately.

Ese del sombrero **tiene que ser** el abuelo – That one with the hat **has to be** the grandfather.

4) Obligation (Impersonal):

Hay + que + <infinitivo>

Hay que llegar puntual - One **has to arrive** on time.

Hay que practicar diariamente – One **has to practice** daily.

Hay que dejar de fumar – One **has to quit** smoking.

Hay que trabajar duro para éxito en la vida – One **has to work** hard for success in life.

5) Supposition | Assumption:

Deber + de + <infinitivo>

Yo **debo de haber** olvidado las llaves en casa.

I **should have** forgotten the keys at home.

Nosotros **debemos de entender** los problemas de nuestros niños.

We **ought to** understand the problems of our children.

6) Necessity:

Deber + <infinitivo>

Tú **debes llegar** puntual - You **must arrive** on time.

Ellos **deben escribir** a las autoridades – They **must write** to the authorities.

Hace mucho calor y yo tengo sed. Yo **debo beber** agua ahora.

It's very hot and I am thirsty. I **must drink** water now.